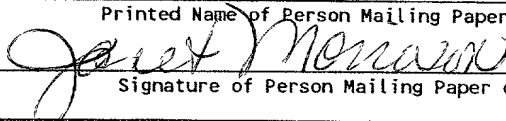
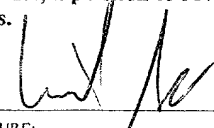


FORM PTO-1390 (REV 10-2000)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 33193
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371			U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5) 09/719454
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/JP00/02391	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 12 April 2000 (12.04.00)	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 13 April 1999 (13.04.99)	
TITLE OF INVENTION PORTABLE TELEPHONE UNIT			
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US KUCHIISHI, Koji; TAKAHASHI, Akira; NAGANO, Katsumi			
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to promptly begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). 4. <input type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (PCT Article 31) 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. 8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). 9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). 10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)). 			
Items 11 to 16 below concern document(s) or information included:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. 12. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. 13. <input type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. 14. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. 15. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. 16. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: <div style="float: right;"> "Express Mail" mailing label number <u>EL595431758US</u> Date of Deposit <u>12/12/00</u> </div> 			
International Search Report <div style="float: right;"> I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231. <u>Janet Morrison</u> Printed Name of Person Mailing Paper or Fee  Signature of Person Mailing Paper or Fee </div>			

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.55) 09/719454		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/JP00/02391		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 33193	
17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)) : Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$1000.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO. \$860.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$710.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$690.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$100.00 ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =				CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				\$	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		
Total claims	7 - 20 =	0	X \$18.00	\$ 0.00	
Independent claims	4 - 3 =	1	X \$80.00	\$ 80.00	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ \$270.00	\$ 0.00	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$ 940.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.				\$	
SUBTOTAL =				\$ 940.00	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				\$	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$ 940.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property				\$ 40.00	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$ 980.00	
				Amount to be refunded:	\$
				charged:	\$
a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ <u>980.00</u> to cover the above fees is enclosed.					
b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>16-0820</u> . A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. <div style="text-align: center;">order no. 33193</div>					
NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.					
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: Michael W. Garvey Pearne & Gordon LLP 526 Superior Ave., East Suite 1200 Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1484					
				 SIGNATURE:	
				Michael W. Garvey NAME:	
				35878 REGISTRATION NUMBER	

4/PK

09/719454

526 Rec'd PCT/PTO 12 DEC 2000

DESCRIPTION

Portable Telephone Unit

5

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a portable telephone unit, and particular to a portable telephone unit in which waterproof ability, assembly ability and shock-resistance are improved.

10

Background of the Invention

Recently, a portable telephone unit that has been made lighter and smaller is frequently exposed to the tough conditions such as sinking in water, dropping or the like as it is handy to carry. Therefore, improvements of waterproof ability, and shock-resistance are being required. A telephone unit having the waterproof structure, which has been disclosed in, for example, Japanese Patent Publication No. Hei. 8-32658, has been proposed, in which a waterproof packing formed of soft material is constituted integrally with a plastic frame and a metal wire and interposed between upper and lower cases.

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Further, another telephone unit, as disclosed in Japanese Patent Publication No. Hei. 6-268724, has been proposed, in which soft material is integrally formed on a part of an inner surface of an upper case formed of hard resin, a

joint surface thereof to a lower case, and surface corners thereof thereby to provide the water proof structure and the strong structure in relation to shock from corner portions.

However, in the telephone unit according to the above
5 conventional art, in case that a packing constituting member is added, the number of parts increases, which causes a problem that the assembling steps increase. Further, in the conventional art in which the waterproof ability is obtained by compressing the packing formed of the soft material by the
10 opposite hard material, the deforming amount of a size enough to waterproof must be obtained by transformation of the packing formed of the soft material. Therefore, a large repulsion power is produced, so that there is a problem that a clearance between the upper and lower cases is easy to be produced.

15 Further, in the conventional constitution in which the soft resin is integrally formed on a part of the inner surface of the case formed of the hard resin, the joint surface thereof, and the surface thereof, a shape of a cavity of a mold and that of a core thereof are different between at the hard resin
20 molding time and at the soft resin molding time. Therefore, a dedicated mold for molding of the hard resin and a dedicated mold for molding of the soft resin are required. That is, the conventional constitution cannot help depend on a
25 case formed of hard material that has been previously formed

by a dedicated mold is placed in another mold and soft material is integrally formed on the desired portions of the case.

However, in the insert molding, there is dispersion in the shape of the previously formed hard material due to molding condition or change of temperature after taking-out, which
5 causes flash and short mold at the sort material molding time and causes low yield.

Further, the insert molding requires a plurality of molds and taking-out of the parts at the molding time is performed
10 many times, so that there are also problems of increase of mold cost and of low productivity. Further, in the telephone unit according to the conventional art, regarding dropping from the corners covered with the soft material, the shock-resistance is taken into consideration. However, regarding dropping from
15 other portions where the hard material is exposed, the shock-resistance is not at all taken into consideration.

Referring to Fig. 7, the constitution and manufacturing method of the telephone unit according to the conventional art will be described. Fig. 7A shows a shape of a case and mold
20 constitution at a hard material molding (primary molding) time, and Fig. 7B shows a shape of a case and mold constitution at a soft material molding (secondary molding) time. In Fig. 7A, there are shown a shape of the firstly formed hard resin 21, a cavity shape 22 constituting the hard resin shape 21, a core
25 shape 23 constituting the hard resin shape 21, and an arranging

example of a gate 24 from which the hard resin is filled into the hard resin shape 21. Further, in Fig. 7B, there are shown a shape of soft resin 25 formed integrally with the hard resin shape 21, a cavity shape 27 constituting the soft resin shape 25, a core shape 26 constituting the soft resin shape, and an arranging example of a gate 28 from which the soft resin is filled into the soft resin shape 25.

As known from Figs. 7A and 7B, in the portable telephone unit according to the conventional art, the soft resin is integrally formed on any of a surface of the hard material portion 21 of a case, an inner surface thereof and a joint surface thereof. Therefore, the shapes of the case inside, the joint surface and the surface are different between before molding of the soft material and after molding thereof, so that any of the molds 22, 23, 26 and 27 cannot be used in common. Accordingly, in order to improve the waterproof structure and the shock-resistance by the conventional art, it is necessary to individually mold the hard material and the soft material using the individual mold.

Disclosure of the Invention

The present invention has been made in order to solve the above conventional problems. Its object is to provide a portable telephone unit in which excellent waterproof ability and shock-resistance are realized while productivity of parts

is being maintained, and in which cost is reduced by reducing the number of parts, mold cost and the assembling steps.

In order to achieve this object, the invention is firstly characterized in that a waterproof rib formed of a soft material
5 is formed integrally with hard material on the periphery of a joint surface of upper and lower case formed of the hard material, that is, on a cavity side of a mold. Further, the invention is secondly characterized in that a waterproof groove
10 opposed to the aforesaid waterproof rib is formed of the soft material. Further the invention is thirdly characterized in that a leading end shape of the aforesaid waterproof rib is formed of a fan-shaped section.

Further, the invention is fourthly characterized in that the soft material that protrudes more than the hard material
15 is formed on surfaces of the upper and lower cases formed of the hard material. Further, the invention is fifthly characterized in that the soft material formed on the surfaces of the upper and lower cases has a plurality of convexities, and sixthly characterized in that a grip portion of the upper
20 and lower case is covered with the soft material.

The portable telephone unit according to the first aspect of the invention comprising the waterproof rib formed of the soft material is formed integrally with the aforesaid hard material on the periphery of the joint surface of the upper
25 and lower cases formed of the hard material, that is, on the

cavity side of the mold, and that the aforesaid waterproof rib is fitted into the waterproof groove opposed to the above rib, thereby to join the upper and lower cases water-tightly to each other. Since the molding of the hard material and the integral
5 molding of the waterproof rib formed of the soft material can be simultaneously performed using the same mold, there are effects that the waterproof ability and the productivity of parts are improved, and that the number of parts, the mold cost, and the assembling steps can be reduced.

10 Further, the second aspect of the invention is a portable telephone unit according to the first aspect of the invention, wherein the waterproof groove opposed to the aforesaid waterproof rib is formed of the soft material. Since the waterproof groove that compresses the waterproof rib is formed
15 of the soft material, even if the deforming amount of a size enough to waterproof is given to the water proof rib, the transformation of the waterproof rib is relaxed by the transformation of the waterproof groove, whereby repulsion power is reduced and there is an effect that a clearance between
20 the upper and lower cases is difficult to be produced.

Further the third aspect of the invention is a portable telephone unit according to the first aspect of the invention, wherein the leading end shape of the aforesaid waterproof rib is formed of a fan-shaped section. The mold cavity slide that
25 has been subjected to machining of the fan-shaped section is

fitted to a straight surface of the mold core, whereby the shape of the waterproof rib can be constituted. Therefore, there are effects that the shape of the mold core can be simplified and that fitting of the cavity slide and the core can be
5 simplified.

Further, the portable telephone unit according to the fourth aspect of the invention comprising the soft material that protrudes more than the hard material is formed on surfaces of the upper and lower cases formed of the hard material. Since
10 the soft material that protrudes more than the hard material is formed on surfaces of the upper and lower cases formed of the hard material, even when the telephone unit drops from other portions than its corners, the protruding soft material strikes against matter earlier than the hard material. Therefore,
15 there is an effect that the shock-resistance can be improved more.

Further, the invention according to fifth aspect of the invention is the portable telephone unit according to the fourth aspect of the invention, wherein the soft material
20 formed on the surfaces of the upper and lower cases has a plurality of convexities. Since the leading ends of the convexities are deformed sufficiently and the shock is relaxed when the portable telephone unit drops, there is an effect that the shock-resistance can be improved more.

25 Further, the invention according to the sixth aspect of

the invention is the portable telephone unit according to the first aspect of the invention comprising the soft material covering the grip portion of the upper and lower case. Since the grip portion is covered with the soft material that is hard to slip, there is an effect that the grip ability can be improved.

Further, in the manufacturing method of the portable telephone unit according to the eight aspect of the invention, comprising steps of using the mold core in common at the hard material molding time and at the soft material molding time, and moving the common core alternately between the cavity for the soft material molding and the cavity for the hard material molding, whereby the hard material and the soft material can be molded simultaneously and integrally using the same mold. Since the simultaneous molding can be performed using the same mold, there are effects that both the waterproof ability and productivity of parts can be improved and that the number of parts, the mold cost, and the assembling steps can be reduced.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing the constitution of a portable telephone unit according to an embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 2 is a sectional view of the portable telephone unit taken along a line A-A in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a sectional view of the portable telephone unit taken along a line B-B in Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken along a line B-B in Fig. 1, showing the mold constitution when hard resin of an upper case is molded.

Fig. 5 is a sectional view taken along a line B-B in Fig. 1, showing the mold constitution when soft resin of the upper case is molded.

Figs. 6A, 6B, and 6C are sectional views in a second embodiment of the invention when a side surface of the case is cut in parallel with a joint surface.

Fig. 7A is a diagram showing a case shape and mold constitution at a conventional hard material molding (primary molding) time, and Fig. 7B is a diagram showing a case shape and mold constitution at a conventional soft material molding (secondary molding) time.

Embodiments of the Invention

Embodiments of the invention will be described below with reference to drawings.

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing the constitution of a portable telephone unit in an embodiment of the invention. As shown in Fig. 1, the portable telephone unit comprises an upper case 12 having a receiver 3, a microphone 6, an operational portion 5 including a plurality of function buttons

such as a dial button, a menu button, and the like, and a display portion 4 for displaying input telephone number and the others; and a lower case 13 into which an antenna 14, a battery (not shown), and the like are inserted; and circuit substrates (not shown) that are accommodated in these upper case 12 and lower case 13. The aforesaid upper case 12 and lower case 13 have on their surfaces soft materials 9 and 28 that protrude more than hard materials 1 and 2.

Further, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, on the periphery of a joint surface 11 of the upper and lower cases, a water proof rib 7 formed of soft material and a waterproof groove 8 are formed integrally with the hard material 1 and the hard material 2, and the waterproof rib 7 is pressed against the waterproof groove 8 thereby to obtain waterproof ability.

According to the constitution of the invention, the integral molding of the soft material is limited to the surface of the hard material and the outside of the joint surface thereby to use a mold core in common at the hard material molding time and at the soft material molding time, and the common core moves alternately between a cavity for hard material molding and a cavity for soft material molding, whereby the simultaneous and integral molding of the hard material and soft material using the same mold can be performed.

A first embodiment of the invention will be described below. Figs. 4 and 5 show respectively a manufacturing method

of the portable telephone unit according to the invention. Fig. 4 shows the constitution of the mold when the hard resin portion 1 of the upper case 12 is molded (primary molding), and Fig. 5 shows the constitution of the mold when the soft resin portions 7 and 9 of the upper case 12 are molded (secondary molding).

The mold forming the hard resin portion 1 comprises a core 15, a primary cavity 16, and a primary cavity slide 17. After the hard resin is molded, firstly, the primary cavity slide 17 moves outward, and then the core 15 separates from the primary cavity 16 together with the hard resin portion 1, whereby the hard resin 1 is taken out from the primary cavity.

Next, without taking out the hard resin portion 1 from the mold, the core is slid or rotated to be moved and then constricted in relation to the cavity for the soft resin molding, whereby the hard resin portion 1 is taken into the soft resin molding. The cavity for the soft resin is formed of a secondary cavity body 19 having the shape of the soft material 9 that protrudes more than the hard material, and a secondary cavity slide 20 having a fan-shaped waterproof rib 7; and the protruding soft resin 9 is formed between the secondary cavity body 19 and the hard resin portion 1. Further, the waterproof rib 7 is molded outside the upper and lower case joint surface 11 and has a shape in which the fan-shaped section of the secondary cavity slide 20 is fitted to the straight surface

of the common core 15.

As described above, according to the first aspect of the invention, the simultaneous molding can be performed using the same mold by the above manufacturing method. Therefore, it
5 is possible to improve both the waterproof ability and the productivity of parts, and it is also possible to reduce the number of parts, the mold cost, and the assembling steps.

Further, in this embodiment, the waterproof rib is formed in the shape in which the fan-shaped section of the cavity slide
10 is fitted to the straight surface of the common core, whereby machining of the mold can be simplified and fitting of the slide can be facilitated.

Further, in this embodiment, the deformation of the waterproof rib is performed in the waterproof groove formed
15 of the soft material, whereby the repulsion power is relaxed, and the clearance between the upper and lower cases can be prevented. Further, since the soft material 9, 10, 28 that protrude more than the hard material are formed on the surfaces of the upper and lower cases 1, 2 in this embodiment, even when
20 the portable telephone unit drops from other portions thereof than corners, the protruding soft material strikes against matter earlier than the hard material. Therefore, the shock-resistance can be improved more.

Further, as a means for heightening the effect of the
25 shock-absorption by the soft material, there is a means that

the surface of the soft material is formed of a plurality of convexities. A second embodiment of the invention will be described below with reference to Fig. 6.

5 Figs. 6A, 6B and 6C are three sectional views obtained by cutting the side surface of the case in parallel with the joint surface in the second embodiment of the invention. Since the shapes of any soft materials 9 have the plural convexities on their surfaces, the convex portions are deformed when the portable telephone unit drops, whereby the shock can be
10 absorbed. In this connection, in the order of Fig. 6A, Fig. 6B and Fig. 6C, the effect of the shock relaxation becomes larger.

Further, by forming the grip portion of the upper and lower case from the soft material that is little in slip, the
15 grip ability can be heightened more.

Industrial Applicability

As clear from the above description, in the invention, the waterproof rib formed of the soft material is integrally
20 constituted on the periphery of the joint surface of the upper and lower case formed of the hard material, and further the soft material that protrudes more than the hard material is formed on the surface of the upper and lower case. Hereby, an excellent portable telephone unit can be realized, in which
25 the excellent waterproof ability and shock-resistance can be

realized, and simultaneously the number of parts, mold cost and the assembling steps can be reduced.

CLAIMS

1. A portable telephone unit comprising a waterproof rib
formed of a soft material provided on the periphery of a joint
5 surface of upper and lower cases formed of hard material, that
is, on a cavity side of a mold, integrally with said hard
material, wherein said waterproof rib is fitted into a
waterproof groove opposed thereto, thereby to join the upper
and lower cases water-tightly to each other.

10

2. The portable telephone unit according to Claim 1,
wherein the waterproof groove opposed to said waterproof rib
is formed of the soft material.

15

3. The portable telephone unit according to Claim 1,
wherein a leading end shape of said waterproof rib is formed
of a fan-shaped section.

20

4. A portable telephone unit comprising soft material
that protrudes more than hard material formed on surfaces of
upper and lower cases formed of the hard material.

25

5. The portable telephone unit according to Claim 4,
wherein the soft material formed on the surfaces of the upper
and lower cases has a plurality of convexities.

6. A portable telephone unit comprising soft material which covers a grip portion of upper and lower case.

5 7. A manufacturing method of a portable telephone unit comprising steps of:

 using a mold core in common at the hard material molding time and at the soft material molding time; and

 moving the common core alternately between a cavity for
10 soft material molding and a cavity for hard material molding,

 whereby the simultaneous and integral molding of the hard material and the soft material can be performed using the same mold.

ABSTRACT

At the periphery of a joint surface (11) formed of hard material (1) and hard material (2) of an upper case (12) and
5 a lower case (13), a waterproof rib (7) formed of soft material and an waterproof groove (8) formed of soft material opposed to the rib are provided integrally with the hard material (1) and the hard material (2), respectively. Further, soft materials (9) and (28) that protrude more than the hard
10 materials (1) and (2) are formed on the surfaces of the upper and lower cases (12) and (13).

FIG. 1

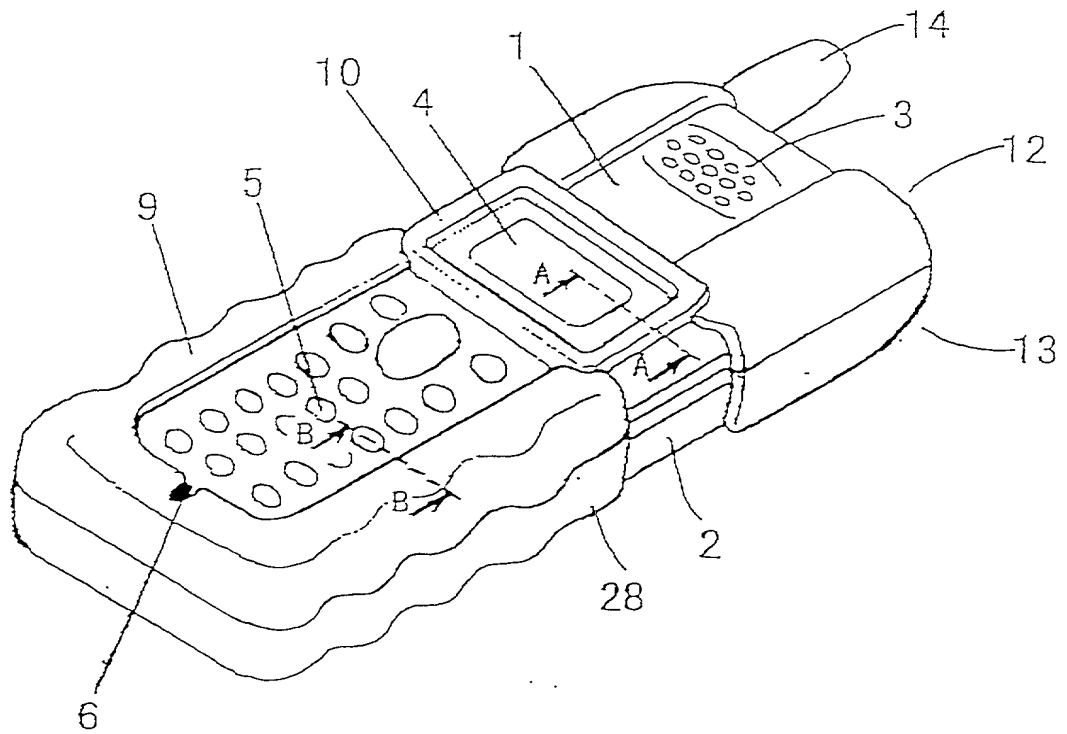


FIG. 2

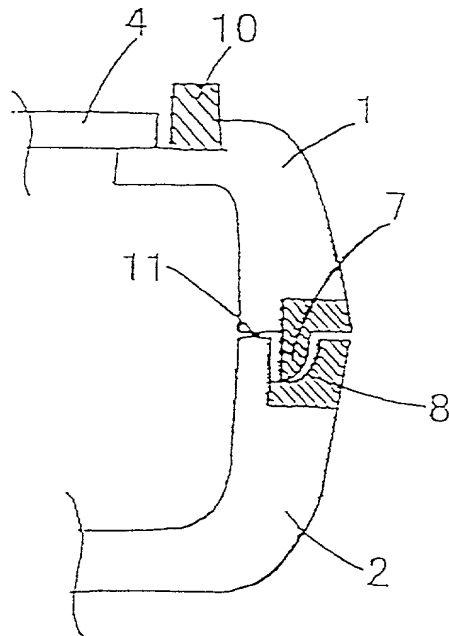


FIG. 3

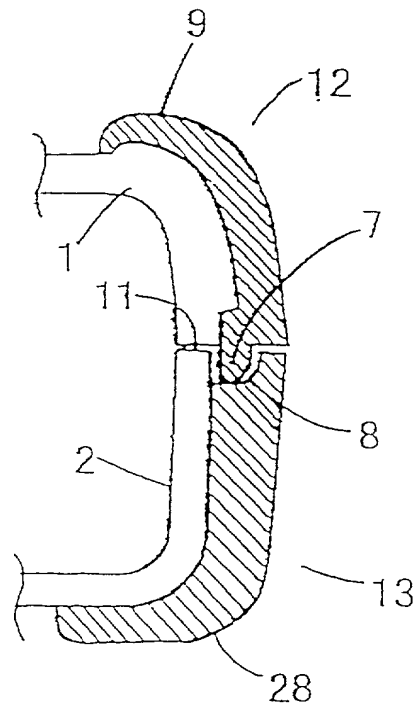


FIG.4

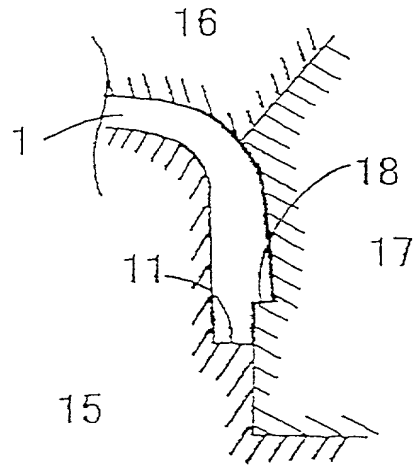


FIG.5

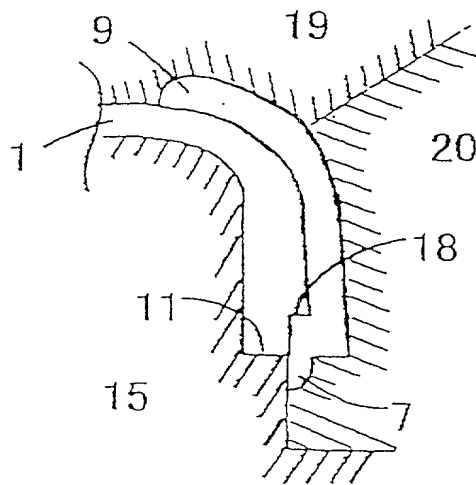


FIG. 6A

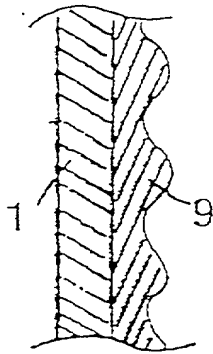


FIG. 6B

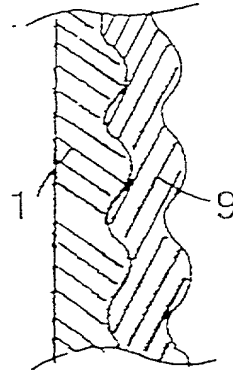


FIG. 6C

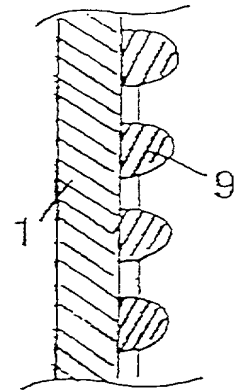


FIG. 7A

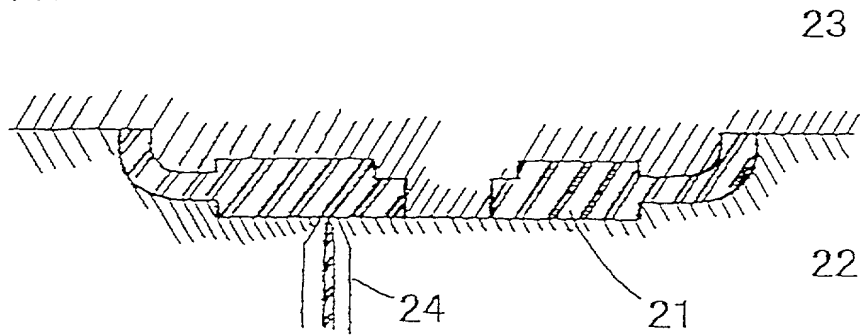
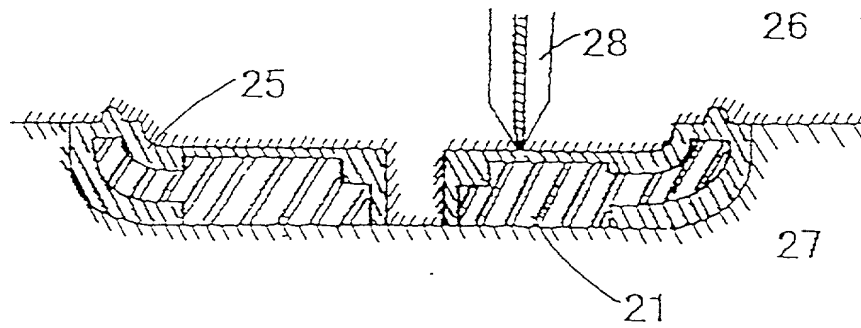


FIG. 7B



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PTO/SB-01 (8-96)

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UTILITY OR DESIGN
PATENT APPLICATION☒ Declaration OR
Submitted
with Initial Filing ☐ Declaration
Submitted after
Initial Filing

Attorney Docket Number

33193

First Named Inventor

Koji Kuchiishi

COMPLETE IF KNOWN

Application Number

Filing Date

Group Art Unit

Examiner Name

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

PORTABLE TELEPHONE UNIT

(Title of the Invention)

the specification of which

☐ is attached hereto
OR☒ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY)

April/12/2000

as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number **PCT/JP00/02391** and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code § 119 (a)-(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365 (a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached?	
				YES	NO
Pat. Hei. 11-105502	Japan	April 13, 1999	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto:

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto.

[Page 1 of 5]

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(January 1997)

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PTO/SB/01 (3-96)

Approved for use through 9/30/98. OMB 0651-0032
Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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DECLARATION

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §120 of any United States application(s), or §365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. Parent Application Number	PCT Parent Number	Parent Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Parent Patent Number (if applicable)

☐ Additional U.S. or PCT international application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto.

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following registered practitioner(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Name	Registration Number	Name	Registration Number
Charles B. Gordon	16923	Howard G. Shimola	26232
William C. McCoy, Jr.	16885	Jeffrey J. Sopko	27676
Richard H. Dickinson, Jr.	18622	John P. Murtaugh	34226
Thomas P. Schiller	20677	James M. Moore	32923
David B. Deidoma	22841	David E. Spaw	34732
Joseph J. Corso	25845	Michael W. Garvey	35878

☒ Additional registered practitioner(s) named on a supplemental sheet attached hereto.

Direct all correspondence to:

Name Pearne, Gordon, McCoy & Granger, L.L.P.Address 1200 Leader Building

Address

City ClevelandState OhioZIP 44114Country U.S.Telephone (216) 579-1700Fax (216) 579-6073

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Name of Sole or First Inventor:

☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor

Given Name

Koji

Middle Initial

Family Name

KUCHIISHI

Suffix e.g. Jr.

Inventor's Signature

Koji Kuchiishi

Date

15. Nov. 2000

Residence: City

Kanagawa

State

Country

Japan JRL

Citizenship

JP

Post Office Address

729-205, Shinmarukocho, Nakahara-ku, Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa 211-0005 Japan

Post Office Address

City

Kanagawa

State

Zip

Country

Japan
☒ Additional inventors are being named on supplemental sheet(s) attached hereto

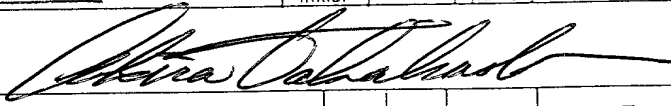
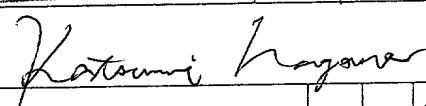
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DECLARATION				ADDITIONAL INVENTOR(S) Supplemental Sheet			
Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any: <input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor							
Given Name	<u>Akira</u>	Middle Initial		Family Name	<u>TAKAHASHI</u>	Suffix	
Inventor's Signature					Date	<u>16/Nov./2000</u>	
Residence: City	<u>Kanagawa</u>	State		Country	<u>Japan JPL</u>	Citizenship	<u>JP</u>
Post Office Address		<u>3-14-701, Nakamachidai 1-chome, Tsuzuki-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa 224-0041 Japan</u>					
Post Office Address							
City	<u>Kanagawa</u>	State		Zip		Country	<u>Japan</u>
Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any: <input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor							
Given Name	<u>Katsumi</u>	Middle Initial		Family Name	<u>NAGANO</u>	Suffix	
Inventor's Signature					Date	<u>22/Nov./2000</u>	
Residence: City	<u>Kanagawa</u>	State		Country	<u>Japan JPL</u>	Citizenship	<u>JP</u>
Post Office Address		<u>13-2-604, Osone 3-chome, Kohoku-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa 222-0003 Japan</u>					
Post Office Address							
City	<u>Kanagawa</u>	State		Zip		Country	<u>Japan</u>
Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any: <input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor							
Given Name		Middle Initial		Family Name		Suffix	
Inventor's Signature					Date		
Residence: City		State		Country		Citizenship	
Post Office Address							
Post Office Address							
City		State		Zip		Country	
Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any: <input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor							
Given Name		Middle Initial		Family Name		Suffix	
Inventor's Signature					Date		
Residence: City		State		Country		Citizenship	
Post Office Address							
Post Office Address							
City		State		Zip		Country	

☐ Additional inventors are being named on supplemental sheet(s) attached hereto

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[illegible]

Additional provisional applications:	
Application Number	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

U.S. Parent Application Number	PCT Parent Number	Parent Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Parent Patent Number (if applicable)

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REGISTERED PRACTITIONER
INFORMATION
(Supplemental Sheet)

Name	Registration Number	Name	Registration Number
Paul R. Katterle	36563		
Richard H. Mescher	<u>38242</u>		